Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 05309 101427Z

44
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 AF-06 OPIC-03 TRSE-00 IO-10

OPR-02 SY-05 A-01 OC-05 CCO-00 /086 W
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O R 101229Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4201
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5309

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: 2,5, PO, PINS
SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON A-207 OF SEPTEMBER 4, 1975

SUMMARY: IN STRONGLY WORDED COMMUNIQUE, PCP HAS QUESTIONED PPD PARTICIPATION IN VI PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. COSTA GOMES AND AZEVEDO MET WITH PPM AND UDP SEPTEMBER 9 AND RAISED SPECTRE OF IMMINENT MOVE BY SPINOLA WITH UDP. MEDIA REACTION TO CR BAN ON PRESS COVERAGE OF MILITARY ACTIVITIES IS UNIFORMLY NEGATIVE. FUR PLANS RALLY SEPTEMBER 11. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LISBON 05309 101427Z

1. PCP QUESTIONS PPD PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT: SEPTEMBER 10

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

"O SECULO" CARRIED PCP COMMUNIQUE ATTACKING PPD IN GENERAL, AND FORMER PPD GENERAL SECRETARY SA CARNEIRO IN PARTICULAR, IN STRONG TERMS. COMMUNIQUE LABELS PPD LEADERS' STATEMENTS IN SEPTEMBER 5 OPORTO RALLY A PLAN FOR COUNTER-REVOLUTION AND CIVIL WAR. SA CARNEIRO'S COMMENTSUIN AUGUST 26 JORNAL NOVO INTERVIEW (REFAIR) ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE PLACED HIM, AND LEADERSHIP OF PPD, "OUTSIDE OF PORTUGUESE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS." PCP RHETORICALLY ASKS HOW PPD CAN TAUE PART IN REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT AND HOW PS CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PPD PRESENCE IN GOVERNMENT. PPD INTERIM GENERAL SECRETARY EMIDIO GUERREIRO, MEANWHILE, AFFIRMED THAT CR DECISION TO INVESTIGATE "SERIOUS" STATEMENTS OF PPD LEADERS DID NOT APPLY TO HIM, BUT ONLY TO SA CARNEIRO AND OTHER SPEAKERS AT OPORTO RALLY.

8 PPM, UDP RECEIVED: COSTA GOMES AND AZEVEDO MET WITH THE FAR-LEFT MINISCULE UDP AND THE PPM (MONARCHISTS) ON SEPT 9. UDP SAID IT WAS INFORMED OF THE NEED FOR REINFORCEMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY AND GREATER ARMY COHESIONIAND DISCIPLINE DUE TO THE FASCIST OFFENSIVE, EVENTUALLY HEADED BY SPINOLA, WHICH MIGHT OCCUR IN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE WEEKS. UDP DECLARED ITS

DISINTEREST IN SUCH REINFORCEMENT OF AUTHORITY WHILE NO INDPCATION IS BEING GIVEN OF A DESIRE TO STILL THE VOICES OF REACTION ALREADY RAISED. PLM SAID THAT ITS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AND PM WAS TO DEFINE PPM'S POSITION. PPM PRESENTED DOCUMENT CALWING FOR GRADUAL TRANSFORMATION OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL INTO COUNCIL OF STATE, AND CANCELLATION OF AFM-PARTY PACT, WHICH PPM NEVER SIGNED. PPM CLAIMED IT HAD RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED PRESIDENT'S REQUEST TOLSERVE EVENTUALLY AS MEDIATOR WITH VAJIOUS POLITICAL GROUPS.

3. MEDIA REACTS NEGATIVELY TO RESTRICTIONS: THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL'S SEPT. 8
ECISION TO RESTRICT PUBLICATION OF NEWS
ABOUT THE MILITARY TO OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUES RECEIVED UNANIMOUS CRITICISM SEPT. 9 AND 10. NEWSPAPERS OF ALL POLITICAL STRIPESH OPPOSED THE MOVE, CALLING IT THE FIRST STEP IN RENEWING THE KIND OF CENSORSHIP SO HATED DURING THE SALAZAR REGIME. SOME OF THE COMMUNIST-INFLUENCED PRESS WAS ESPECIALLY STRONG IN SAYING THE COUNCIL'S MOVE SIGNIFIED THE EFFECTIVE END OF THE REVOLUTION,
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AS IT WAS EVIDENT THAT "REACTIONARY" FORCES HAD SEIZED THE INITIATIVE. SO FAR, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE MEDIA WILL OPENLY DEFY THE COUNCIL ON ITS RULING. ONE PAPER, INDEPENDENT "JORNAL NOVO" MADE KEY POINT THAT THE LOGICAL (BUT IMPOSSIBLE, IN THIS INSTANCE) MOVE TO CURB PUBLICATION OF TENDENTIOUS NAWS ABOUT VARYING POLITICAL EXPRESSIONS AND OPINIONS WITHIN THE MILITARY WOULD BE TO ACT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES AND NOT BY MUZZLING THE PRESS. ANOTHER, "A CAPITAL", REPORTEF THAT, BECAUSE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

OF CR DECISION, IT WOULD BE UNABLE TO INFORM READERS OF SEPTEMBER
9 MEETING OF MILITARY POLICE A
D DECISIONS TAKEN AT THAT MEETING.

4. REVOLUTIONARY UNITY FRONT PLANS RALLY: THEHREVOLUTIONARY UNITY
FRONT (FRENTE DE UNIDADE REVOLUCIONARIA--FUR, FORMERLY KNOWN AS
POPULAR UNITY FRONT) HAS SCHEDULED A RALLY SEPT 11 IN LISBON
BULLRING. FUR IS NOW COMPOSED OF MDP/CDE, PRP-BR, LCI, MES, LUAR,
AND FSP. THE PCP WAS KICKED OUT OF THIS ORGANIZATION AFTER IT
HAD CALLED FOR AN ALLIANCE WITH PS.

5. AGRARIAN LANDOWNERS PROTEST: ABOUT 200 FARM OWNERS
GATHERED IN FRONT OF SOUTHERN MILITARY REGION HEADQUARTERS IN
EVORA SEPT 9 TO DEMANE "OBSERVANCE OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW
AND AN END TO ILLEGAL OCCUPATIONS." THESE DEMANDS WERE ALSO MADE
DIRECTLY TO GEN. PEZARAT CORREIA, REGION COMMANDER, BY A FARM-OWNER
DELEGATION. FIGHTS BROKE OUT WHEN LEFTIST COUNTERDEMONSTRATORS
CLASHED WITH THE PROTESTING FORMERS.

6. CDS "THREAT" TO PS: IN SALZBURG, WHERE HE IS ATTENDING
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND CONSERVATIVES,
CDS VICE-PRESIDENT AMARO DA COSTA STATED THAT PS CONSIDERS
CDS IT MOST DANGEROUS ELECTORAL OPPONENT AND FOR THIS REASON
HAS BEEN BEHIND "DISCRIMINATION" TO WHICH CDS HAS BEEN SUBJECTED
IN PORTUGAL. HE ALSO DENOUNCED "SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST"
ATTEMPTSITO PROHIBIT POLITICAL PARTIES IN PORTUGAL FROM USING
NAMES WITH RELIGIOUS CONNOTATIONS.

7. COMMENT: PCP IS GRASPING AT STRAWS CONVENIENTLY PROVIDED
BY PPD AND SA CARNEIRO IN AN ATTEMPT TO RECOVER ITS BALANCE
AFTER REVERSES OF PAST WEEKS. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT COMMUNIST
STAND REFLECTS ANY REAL DETERMINATION TO BOYCOTT VI PROVISIONAL
GOVERNMENT WHICH INCLUDES PPD, OR THAT IT WILL HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT
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PAGE 04 LISBON 05309 101427Z

IMPACT ON NEGOTIATIONS TO FORM GOCERNMENT. GUERREIRO'S "SAUVE
QUI PEUT" ATTITUDE POINTS UP PROFOUND DIVISIONS WITHIN PPD TOP
LEADERSHIP.

8. COSTA GOMES HAS RAISED THE SPECTRE OF COMMUNIST CIOLENCE
WITH THE MODERATE PARTIES, AND OF FASCIST CIOLENCE WITH THE LEFT
IN AN EFFORT TO BOLSTER HIS OWN SAGGING AUTHORITY AND TO ARGUE
THE NEED FOR WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE OFHA NEW GOVERNMENT. MOST
NOTABLE, HOWEVER, IS THE EFFECT SPINOLA'S PRESENCE IN PARIS HAS
HAD ON THE POLIPICAL MOMRBHERE. LISBON PRESS IS FULL OF SPECULAT-
ION ABOUT SPINOLA'S ACTIVITIES, AND MILITARY AND PARTY LEADERS
ON ALL SIDES APPEAR DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT ALVOVE BY SPINOLA OR
GROUPS LOYAL TO HIM IS IMMINENT.

9. PRESS REACTION TO CR DECISION IS AS EXPECTED; PERIOD OF PRO-

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BING A LA "CAPITAL" IS NOW LIKELY TO ENSUE IN PRESS ATTEMPT TO
DETERMINE HOW FAR CR CAN BE PUSHED. FUR RALLY WILL BE FIRST
TEFT OF ITS VITALITY AND CROWD-DRAWING ABILITY SINCE PCP EXPULSION.

10. AMARO DA COSTA'S RELATIONS WITH PS ARE EXCELLENT. SALZBURG
REMARKS MAY THEREFORE BE INDIRECT ATTEMPT TO AID SOCIALPSTS.
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EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

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